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## Reminiscences No. 16.

In August, 1848, it was estimated that the number of persons in the mines, from the number of persons in the mines, from
the Feather to the Stanislaus rivers and in
the dry diggings of the foot hills, amount
ed to about 2,000. There were absolutely
no poor men among these, for every one
could show some gold, more or less. Of
course there was great variance in individuals as to luck, industry, and perseverance, but it was not uncommon to hear of
men who obtained in a single day from
\$800 to \$2000 worth of the precions metal. men who obtained in a single day from \$800 to \$2000 worth of the precious metal. One piece that an unlucky fellow found was reported as weighing thirteen pounds, with but a very little mixture of quartz. I said unlacky, for it proved so to him, in assauch as the romarkable find upset his with and he did not live long after. There was a good deal of intermerance in drink was a good deal of intemperance in drink. Groggeries were plentiful, and many of the lower classes, such as runaway sailors and soldiers of which there was quite a sprinkling among the diggers as well as

sprinking among the diggers as well as farmers, merchants, doctors, lawyers, etc., spent their time, and their gold almost as fast as obtained, in and about the groggeries. I remember one fellow who had drank himself out of dust, and begged for a drink on credit. The dealer told him to go to the creek and dig for the needful. But the man had the "thirst of the wicked" on him as he expressed it and ed" on him, as he expressed it, and wanted a glass very bad, at once. The refusal was repeated; when the desiccated individual, declaring with an oath that there was "good diggings anywhere around here," scooped up a panful of earth and sand right in front of the bara board, laid on two barrels—which he washed out in the bed of the creek, and returned in a few minutes with the proceeds in the bottom of his pan, about five or six dollars worth of gold. Gambling too, began to prevail, the usual game be ing "monte," and many a miner sacrificed his "pile" to the sharpers after a hard day's work.

hard day's work.

I was doing extremely well in my ravine, which I had all to myself, and should have secured a large amount of gold but for my own good-natured verdancy. A runaway U. S. soldier (an Irishman) from Monterey, came along one day where I was digging out a crevice, and sitting down bemoaned his hard luck. He had been a week in the diggings, but somehow could not strike paying dirt. Besides, he was liable to be arrested as a deserter. (Col. R. B. Mason, the Military Governor of California, had offered large rewards for the apprehension of these men.) As he talked, the tears stood in his eyes. My ravine was a long one; I felt already rich, and able to be generous. So exacting a promise that he would tell no one of the existence of this rich spot, I proceeded to show him how to find the crevices where the gold lay embedded. And he struck it richer than even I, for his first pan washed out about \$100. But I was content in the thought that there was enough in the hill for both of us. The very next morning, when I leisurely proceeded to my ravine to work,—behold! it was fairly lined from the top to the bottom with busy miners, hewing away with

kind of comfort from my partner.

Having sold all our goods, and at a large profit, Beardsley wanted to go down to San Francisco for a fresh lot, and in my then frame of mind it was not hard to persuade me to go along with him. Besides, as it was now the end of September, winter with its rains was close at hand, and it was supposed that the interior was almost uninhabitable at that season. We therefore sold our tent and such articles as we could not pack on a horse—we had as we could not pack on a horse—we had bought a sore-backed, broken down old nag for \$150—and started on foot for Sutter's Fort, en route for the Bay. Each carried his "swag" of gold in this manner: Dividing it into two equal parcels, tied in buckskin pouches, these were suspended in silk handkerchiefs tied at the shoulder and crossed over the breast under the shirt, so that a pouch of gold was under each armpit, and quite out of sight. The weight chating on the shoulders was such that on arriving at the Fort ers was such that on arriving at the Fort after our tramp of two days, they were black and blue.

We found the people at Mormon Island in a state of some excitement, on account of a controversy that had been going on with Brannan. He had claimed, and for some time received from the miners belonging to the Mormon communion, ten per cent of all the gold they obtained, on the ground that it was the tithe which they were bound to pay the Church. Altogether Sam must have got a handsome sum in this way; but latterly the faithful had become restive under the tax and it had become restive under the tax, and it ended in their refusing to pay it. Previous to this, however, the idea had actually been mooted among the Mormons, of foreing "Gentiles" to pay also, on the ground that the deposits belonged to the Church by right of discovery and occupation; but I think the project was not seriously entertained by Brannan.

Fort—New Helvetia, as Sutter called it—was full of people, and surrounded by numerous camps, mostly of miners returning home for the season, although there were many new arrivals from

though there were many new arrivals from though there were many new arrivals from below going to the mines. My partner sold our sore-backed horse—thoughtfully keeping the pack-saddle on during the negotiation—for \$200, and we paid \$5 each passage on a wagon from the Fort to the Embarcadero. Here we found that quite a village of wooden shanties had sprung up along the banks of the river in the three months that had elapsed since we were on the spot on our way to the mines. There were gross shows and gam-

## SATURDAY PRESS.

VOLUME II., NO. 17.

HONOLULU, H. I., SATURDAY DECE MBER, 24, 1881.

There was much sickness on the rivers at this time, but there was none whatever in the mountain regions. The complaints were, in general, bilious and intermittent fevers and diarrhosa. Cases were not infrequent in the region between the Embareadero and Mormon Island, of the find-ing of the dead bodies of unknown persons,

which were buried on the spot. The only mode of conveyance down the Sacramento to San Francisco was by boats. There were several of these, of the style of ship's "launches," or long-boats, usually decked over and schooner-rigged.

China Ware, Practical Mechanics, Honoluin, H. I. The one on which we embarked was one of the best of these, known as "Sutter's launch," about 25 feet long and decked. The price of passage was \$50, and there were forty persons "cabin'd, cribb'd, confin'd," in this little craft during five days and nights which elapsed before we landed at Clark's Point. At night we tied up to a tree on the river bank, and most of the passengers took a run on shore, but we always slept on the boat, not desiring to make a near acquaintance of the wild animals coyotes, wolves and bears that came snifting at us at night on the muddy, sedgy banks. During the day the sun was hot, and the light breeze that came up the river made our progress slow. A good many weary miles were accomplish-

ed by "warping." A line was taken away ahead in a skiff and tied to a tree, up to which the launch was pulled, and so on, the day through. Near the junction of the Sacramento and San Joachin rivers, we got wind enough through the Straits of Carquinez to make sail and beat through. There was a lonely looking shanty at the junction, where somebody had laid out a city, with the high-sound-ing title of "New York of the Pacific," but the name was all that ever came of it. Benicia, so named by Robert Semple, its founder, in honor of his California wife, then consisted of but two or three houses and sheds. It also had great expectations

THOS. G. THRUM.

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News Agont. Book Binder, &c.,
Merchant Street, and Dealer in of becoming the commercial metropolis of the State, its first settlers for a long deluding themselves with the belief that commerce would pass by San Francisco in favor of their supposed superior location. On the evening of the fourth day from the On the evening of the fourth day from the Embarcadero, we dropped anchor for the night off the shore at Saucileto, and crossing the bay early next morning, tied up at last alongside the wharf at Clark's Point (a point now somewhat distant from the bay up Broadway.)

The bay up Broadway.)

Boots and Shoes made for Cash only at last alongside the wharf at Clark's Importers and Wholesale Dealers in General Merchandise, Makee's Block, Queen Street.

of people, strangers mostly, who had arrived from the Islands, from Oregon, and from South America, attracted by the news of the gold discoveries. There was but one solitary vessel in port when we left; there were now twenty-five, but generally deserted by their crews, who had gone to the mines. Society in the town was beginning to get into that condition of disorganization and misrule which characterized San Francisco in 1849, and their picks. My Irish friend had got drunk the night before in celebrating his subsequently, until the Vigilance Committee became a stern necessity. Steven-which had been sent out around the Horn in 1846 to garrison California, had now, on the advent of peace with Mexico, been discharged, and many of the men were kind of comfort from my partner. officers as a rule were gentlemen, and some of the men were also orderly and well-behaved, but the majority were inclined to be decidedly rowdy. They spent their time in hanging about the liquor shops and gambling tables—some were sharp monte dealers-and lay in wait for returned miners with plethoric bags of gold dust. At night they frequent-ly travelled in companies from one liquor shop to another, creating trouble and rows wherever they went. They were known as "The Hounds," a name of their own adoption, and their head-quarters was at "The Shades," a public house on Jackson street, owned by Isaac Montgomery, before and afterwards a resident

gomery, before and afterwards a resident of Honolulu. These "Hounds" were hounded out of their organization by the concerted action of the citizens in 1849. Coin was scarce, although several hun-dred thousand dollars had been brought from Honolulu and from Squth America, and gold dust commanded but \$9 per ounce. Board was from \$20 to \$30 per week, the fare being plain beef and bread; vegetables were not to be had at any price, and milk, butter and cheese existed price, and milk, butter and cheese existed in memory only. Flour was \$5 per sack; salt pork \$50 per barrel in San Francisco and \$200 in the mines. Liquors, however, had not risen in price, owing to the quantities imported from all quarters, and were retailed at 25 cents per glass. The trouble was the scarcity of change, and particularly the quarters of a dollar; but this was temporarily got over by cutting half dollars in two. An attempt was made to pass what were called "shin-plasters," of the denominations of ten, twenty-five and seventy-five cents, but they never were in favor with the public, and soon disappeared.

Among the arrivals from Honolulu, was

Among the arrivals from Honolulu, was the Rev. T. Dwight Hunt, who had been a missionary of the A. B. C. F. M. at Laha-ina. He preached one Sunday to a full house in an adobie building on the upper house in an adobie building on the upper side of the Plaza—Portsmouth Square. The audience was organized, immediately after the sermon, into a public meeting, and the sum of \$2,500 then and there sub-scribed for the preacher, as salary, with the title of "Protestant Chaplain of San Francisco." I believe that this was the first Protestant religious service ever held in San Francisco, and was the initial of the first Presbyterian Church in that city. On my return to town I recommenced aprung up along the banks of the river in the three months that had elapsed since we were on the spot on our way to the mines. There were grog shops and gambling hells galore, and soveral restaurants where a meal of fried beef and soggybaked bread with very questionable coffee could be got for one-and-a half to two dollars a head. Lodging houses were out of the question, and everybody camped out with their blankets under the large spreading cak trees that abounded in the neighborhood of the landing.

While here we heard of the first death by violence in the mines—the murder of John R. von Pfister, for some years a resident of Honolulu, and a partner in the ship-chandlery business with Rodriguez Vida, who died here some twenty-five years ago. Von Pfister was in camp on the American river, Oct. 1st, when he was stabbed to death in an altercation with a rowdy character named Raymond. The latter fied, and for that crime escaped justice. A reward of \$500 was offered by the people of San Francisco for his apprehen-

sion, to which was added \$500 more by the brother of the deceased. Edward von the times, the memories of which I have brother of the deceased, Edward von Pfister. But Raymond, although not directly punished for the murder, lost his own life some time subsequently in a dranken broil.

tons, in the year 1830. Looking back to the times, the memories of which I have been bringing up, I am struck with the sombre reflection that the survivors of the pioneer gold-seekers of '48 are very few indeed. And none of them are rich. pioneer gold-seekers of '48 are very few indeed. And none of them are rich. indeed. And none of them are Neither, as a rule, are those of '49. H. L. S.

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The Oldest Purely Mutual Life Insurance Co.in the United States. Policies Issued on the most favorable Terms. Example of Non-Forfeiture Plan

INSURED AGE, 35 YEARS—ORDINARY LIFR
1 Annual premium continues Policy 2 years 3 days
2 Annual premiums continue Policy 4 years 12 days
3 Annual premiums continue Policy 6 years 17 days
4 Annual premiums continue Policy 6 years 47 days
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5 Annual premiums continue Policy 10 years 56 days

Annets, : \$18,500,000! Lomes Paid through Honolulu Agency, \$49,000 CASTLE & COOKE, AJENTS

TI FOR THE HAWAHAN ISLANDS IT NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE Insurance Company Of London and Edinburg. FIRE.

Resources of the Company as at Sist December, 1886: 

Established 1809.

REVENUE FOR THE YEAR 1880.-Fire Premiums and In-3,900 9.
E. HOFFSCHLAEGER & CO.,
Agents for the Hawatian Islands
TRANS-ATLANTIC FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, Capital of the Company & Reserve., Reichsmark f,000,000
"their Re-Insurance Companies" 101,650,000

Total......Reichsmark 107,650,000 NORTH CERMAN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, apital of the Company & Reserve.. Reichsmark 8,800,000 their Re-Insurance Companies 35,000,000

Total...... Reichsmark 41,830,000 SCHWEIZERISCHE LLOYD RUCK VERSICHERUNGS GESELLSCHAFT RUCK VERSICHERUNGS GESELLSCHAP
OF WINTERTHUR.
Capital of the Company.

Capital of the Company.

of the above three companies for the Hawaiian Islands, are prepared to insure Buildings. Furniture, Merchandise and Produce, Machinery. &c., also Sugar and Rice Milis, and vessels in the harbor, against loss or damage by fire, on the most favorable terms.

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Treceived per Amy Turner, from Boston, a full assortment of these celebrated Pumps, which are guaranteed to be chesper and better than any other style of pump imported. We call the attention of planters particularly to the Yacuum Pump, which is less compilicated and more servicable than other pumps.

873 3m 15 1f The Germania Market

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Pork Sausages, Bolognas, Head Cheese, German Sausages, &c., always on hand, as also the best of Poultry and Fish.

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LAUNDRY STOVES. Ships' and Schooners' Cabooses.

"Army Ranges." cooking capacity for 100 men.

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Galvanized and Black Sheet Iron, 16 to 26 gauge;
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Copper Steam Pipe, 5a to 4 in;
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Inned and clean;
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Full Assortment of Elbows, Tr, Unions, etc.

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Stock: Water Closets, Cast Iron and Lead Soil Pipe, Hose Biblis, Step Cocks, Pialn Bibbs, Silver Plated and Nickel Basin Cocks and Pings, Combination Cocks, for coid and hot water; Hose Couplings, Tabular Shower Heads, Hath Tabs, Hop and Coppers, Cast Iron Sinks, Soldering Coppers, Pipe and Gas Tongs, Gair. Circulating Boliers, for supplying bath sink, &c., with hot water; Lead Pipe, 5: to 2 in.

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